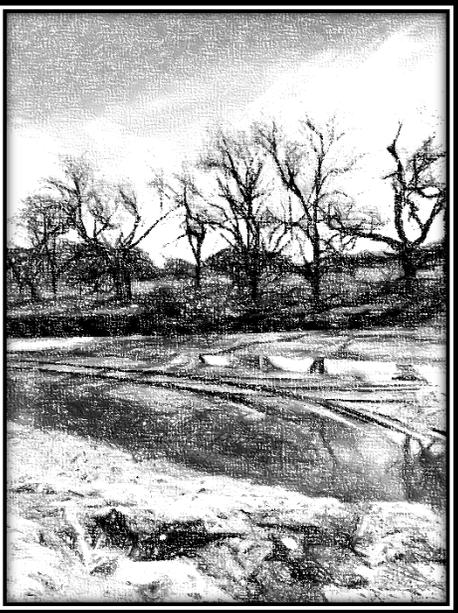


# Heartbeat of the Hickory: Winter 2019

Newsletter of the  
Hickory Underground Water Conservation District No. 1



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## Back to Basics

We're in the process of mailing and emailing the water use reports for 2018. Usually there are a lot of questions and that's perfectly understandable. The world of water conservation districts rules is quite confusing. So, here's just a brief overview. All forms mentioned are available in both PDF and Word on our website for download.

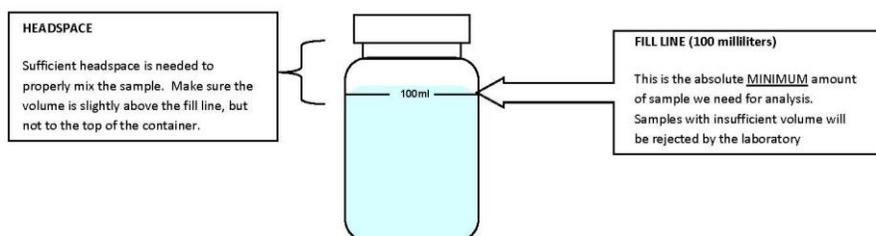
There are basically two categories of wells: exempt and non-exempt. Non-exempt wells are wells that produce on average more than 25,000 gallons of water per day. These are the large producing wells normally associated with irrigation, industry, commercial livestock, and public water supplies. For these wells we require a permit, so a permit application should be submitted to the District prior to drilling any new large-production well. The Board of Directors will hear the request at a public hearing. After you receive a permit, we ask that you submit annual water use reports to the District. We mail/email the forms at the end of the year.

For all other wells (domestic and/or livestock), we need registration forms completed. These are very simple forms and used for "accounting" purposes. These are completed after the well is drilled and equipped.

We permit and register wells in order to keep track of all the water that is being drawn from **all** aquifers within the District boundaries. On August 12, 1999 the petition of creation was amended by the TNRCC (now Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to include all aquifers within the legal boundaries and management jurisdiction of the District. If you're still confused or need help filling out any of the paperwork, we are more than happy to assist you.

### Proper Collection of Drinking Water Samples for Coliform Analysis

- 💧 **You must use the sample container provided by the laboratory.** This container has been sterilized and contains a special chemical (in the form of a white powder) that is required for the test.
- 💧 Find a proper location to take a sample, preferably an outside faucet that does not leak. Remove any hoses (if present) prior to collecting a sample.
- 💧 If an inside faucet is used, remove any aerators or filtration systems (if present) prior to collecting a water sample.
- 💧 Do not collect on windy or rainy days, as this could lead to contamination of the sample.
- 💧 Sterilize the faucet from which the sample is to be collected in order to eliminate any bacteria present on the faucet which may contaminate your sample. The faucet may be sterilized by using one of the following methods:
  - Use a swab with bleach to wipe the inside and outside of the faucet opening. Rinse the outside lip well with water.
  - Use a flame (such as a lighter) to sterilize the faucet. Do not use a match, as this could leave soot on the faucet which could contaminate the sample. This method should only be used on outside faucets, as inside faucets could be discolored or tarnished.
- 💧 Turn on the cold water, and allow the faucet to flow for 2 – 3 minutes in order to clear the line. Reduce the flow to a slow, steady, and sprayless stream in order to collect the sample.
- 💧 Remove the sterility seal from the sample container and discard.
- 💧 Remove the cap from the sample container, taking care not to touch the inside of the lid or the lip of the container.
- 💧 **DO NOT RINSE THE SAMPLE CONTAINER.** The container contains a powder residue which is required for the test.
- 💧 Fill the sample container only to the neck of the container or the fill line, and seal tightly.

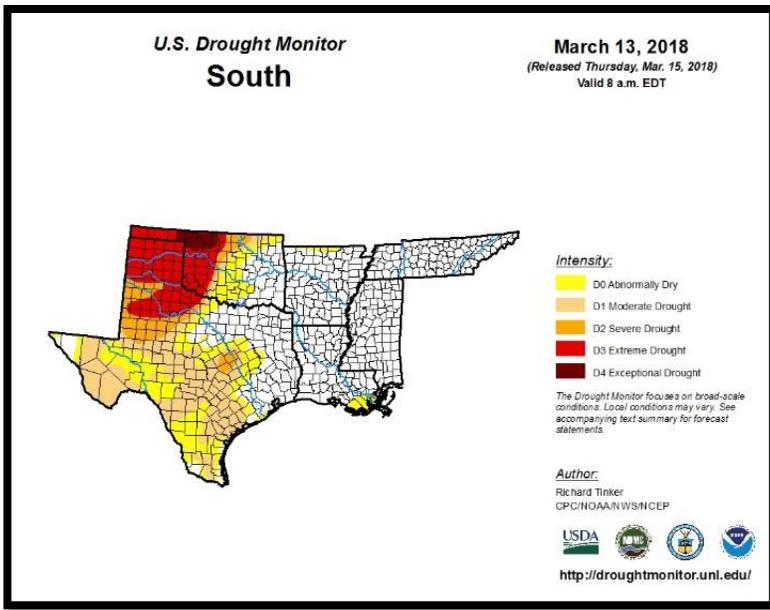


- 💧 Submit the sample to the Hickory UWCD Office, located at 111 East Main, Brady, TX, **within 24 hours of collection.** We're on the North Side of the Square, East Block. Call (325) 597-2785 if you have any questions or concerns.

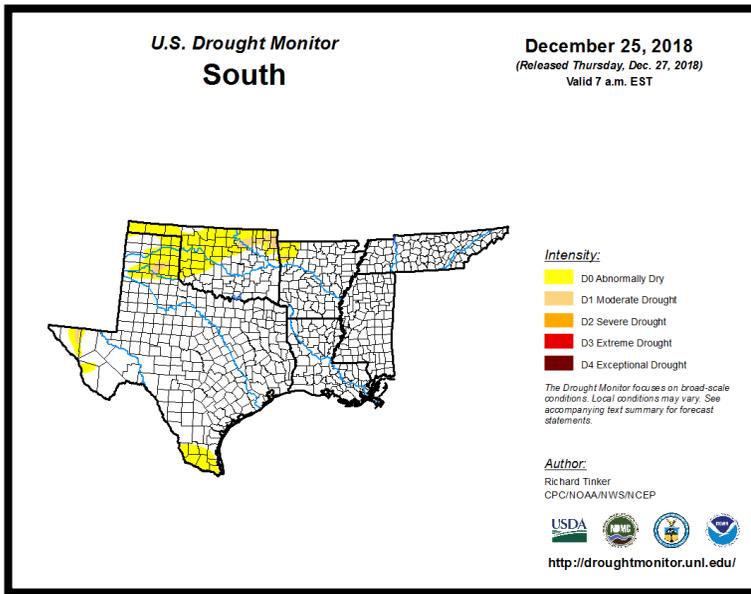
- 💧 Samples are accepted **Monday – Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.**

### Water Testing

After all the recent rains, we've seen more than the average number of water quality tests coming into the office. If you live in the District, this service is free. We can draw the water samples for you, or you can draw them yourself. Almost any kind of container can be used to test for the regular constituents like iron, sulfate and nitrates, but special containers are used to collect samples for Coliform testing. Contact the office to find out where you can get one of these sample bottles.

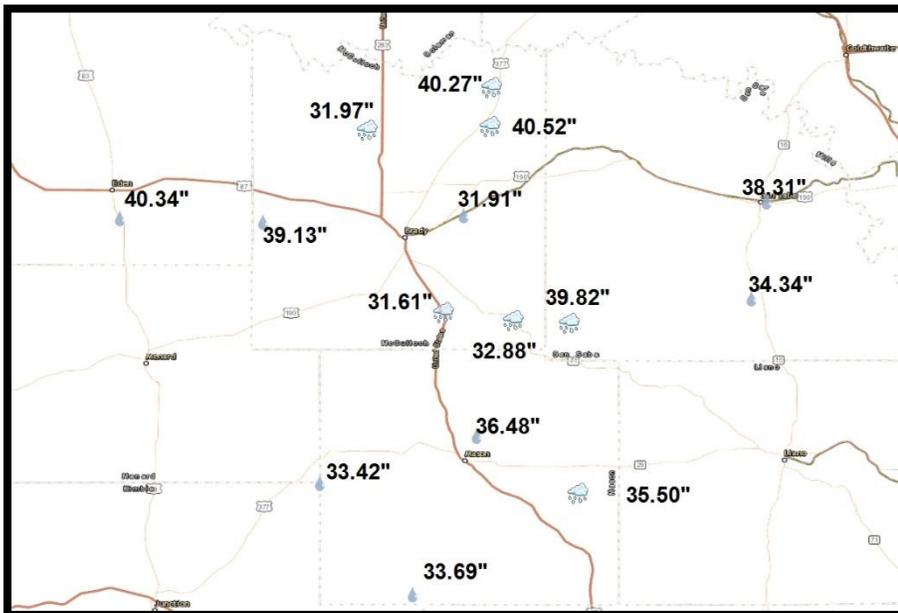


That was then...



...and this is now  
**Rainfall 2018**

because of this...



## WATER USE REPORTS

2018 Water Use Reports have been mailed and emailed to all permit holders. Water use reports are NOT needed for registered wells: wells that are used for domestic and livestock use.

There are several methods used to calculate the amount of water used. Many irrigators have flowmeters in line. Some users report hours pumped and the average gallons per minute. If you have the total kilowatt hours and the horsepower of the pump, we can use that as well.

If you are receiving your report by mail but prefer to receive an email, contact our office. If you have any questions or need help completing your form, please, don't hesitate to call, email or stop by the office.

The reports are due March 15, 2019.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Drop us an email anytime:

[hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com](mailto:hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com)

These newsletters are available both electronically and in print.

**WE FORGET THAT THE WATER CYCLE AND THE LIFE CYCLE ARE ONE.**

JACQUES YVES COUSTEAU